

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

JULY 15, 2003

On January 1, 2003, the Department of Health Services, acting as the health authority, clarified the Los Angeles County Plumbing Code requirements for potable water. Based on a recommendation of the State Department of Health Services, the County Department of Health Services determined that hauled water is not a reliable source of water that is appropriate for drinking, culinary, and domestic purposes. It was also determined that hauled water does not provide the equivalent level of public health protection or reliability as a permitted public water system or an approved on-site source of supply.

Additionally, there is an increased risk of contamination of the water during the transfer of water from the tanker trucks to on-site storage facilities. The Department of Health Services' Office of Acute Communicable Disease Control concurs with this determination that hauled water is not appropriate as safe reliable source of potable water.

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YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
BURKE	_____

However, consideration needs to be given to the history of property owners being allowed to use hauled water as a source of supply. For more than 15 years, the Department of Public Works has been issuing permits to property owners allowing hauled water as a permissible water source. Currently, the Water Availability Policy has disadvantaged some Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita Valley/Agua Dulce property owners who were in the process of completing the necessary work to obtain a building permit before they became aware that water availability would affect their ability to develop their property. Also, the policy does not give consideration to the fact that in some areas of the County the availability of adequate and sustainable groundwater may be limited by geology or contamination.

It is disruptive to property owners to implement the Water Availability Policy prior to developing a transition plan and implementing alternative solutions.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Directors of Health Services, Public Works, and Regional Planning to:

1. Re-evaluate the Water Availability Policy with recommendations to address the severe impact to residents.
2. Develop and implement a transition plan that includes alternative solutions for properties without an available supply of potable groundwater.

3. Report to the Board in 30 days on steps that can be taken immediately to eliminate the negative impact of the Water Availability Policy on those property owners who were processing paperwork to develop their property when the policy took effect and on those who want to develop property.

4. Convene community meetings in the Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita Valley/Agua Dulce areas to ascertain the water source needs and long-range plans for meeting those needs with a report back in 90 days.

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